

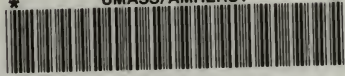
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# A Guide To Salvage Titles

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*A Letter From  
The Registrar*

This booklet is intended to clarify procedures, standards and policies applicable to salvage title operation.



On May 1, 1991, in response to increasing insurance rates and escalating auto theft, the Registry of Motor Vehicles required that all vehicles identified as having been the subject of a total loss payment by an insurance company be titled as a salvage vehicle. A salvage vehicle is defined as a vehicle that has been declared by the insurance company to be a total loss resulting from fire, theft, vandalism, collision, flood or other occurrence. This classification is permanent and remains with the vehicle throughout the remainder of its "life." The insurance company is responsible for evaluating and classifying these vehicles. Such classification is subject to review and evaluation by the Registry.

I hope this booklet answers your questions about salvage title procedure. We at the Registry of Motor Vehicles are here to assist you through the process.

*Jerold A. Gnazzo*  
Registrar

## **A Guide to Salvage Titles**



This document is a publication of the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Please address all correspondence to:

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

What's A Total Loss? .....	4
1. Applying For An Owner Retained Total Loss Title .	6
2. Applying For A Repairable Salvage Title .....	8
3. Insurance Company Procedures .....	12
4. Title Types and Brands .....	14
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers .....	18
 Appendix .....	 22
Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90D, Sections 20-20F .....	 23
Plain English Summary of Salvage Title Law .....	31



## **What's A Total Loss?**

A total loss is when the insurance company determines that it is economically unfeasible to repair the vehicle.

There are two types of titles which are issued as the result of a total loss:

### **Owner Retained Total Loss Title**

An Owner Retained Total Loss Title is issued to a vehicle that has been declared by the insurance company to be a total loss resulting from fire, vandalism, collision or flood. This vehicle is registered and can be driven. The owner of the vehicle has chosen to retain title to the vehicle.

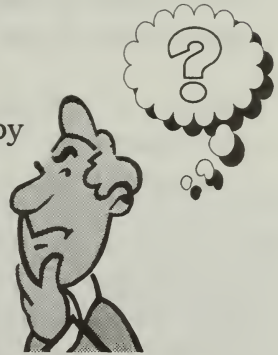
### **Repairable Salvage Title**

A Repairable Salvage Title is issued to a vehicle that has been declared by the insurance company to be a total loss resulting from fire, vandalism, collision or flood. The owner has chosen to retain title and has decided to repair the vehicle back to its operating condition. Although the vehicle may be driveable, it cannot be driven until it has passed a registry inspection. Therefore, it is important to note that this vehicle will be considered unregistered by the Registry and law enforcement authorities.

**The First Step In The Salvage  
Title Process Is Up To You!**

**Time To Make A Decision**

Your vehicle has been “totalled” by the insurance company and they have paid you for your loss. Now, you must decide whether or not you wish to repair your vehicle.



If you choose not to repair your vehicle, and your vehicle can be driven, then you should turn to *page 6* of this manual and follow the steps necessary to obtain an Owner Retained-Total Loss Title.

If you choose to repair the vehicle, you should turn to *page 8* of this manual and follow the steps necessary to obtain a Repairable Salvage Title.

## **1. Applying For An Owner Retained Total Loss Title**

"I've decided to keep my vehicle, I can still drive it and I don't want to get it repaired....what do I do now?"

Within ten (10) days of receiving the settlement from your insurance company, you can apply for an owner retained salvage title.

You must mail or bring to the Title Division, Registry of Motor Vehicles, 1135 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02120-2103 the following documents:

- ✓ your present certificate of title
- ✓ your current certificate of registration (if available)
- ✓ an appraisal report from your insurance company
- ✓ a completed application (RMV-1)
- ✓ a check or money order made payable to the "Registry of Motor Vehicles" in the amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for the application fee.



## **Issuance of Title**

Within thirty (30) days, the Registry will complete the review of your application and mail to you your new Salvage Title.

That's all there is to it!

### **Important Note:**

**Your vehicle has remained registered and can be driven throughout the owner retained salvage title procedure.**

## **2. Applying For a Repairable Salvage Title**

"I've decided to keep my vehicle, the insurance company paid me for my loss, now I want to get my car repaired and back to its operating condition, what do I have to do?"

You must mail or bring to the Title Division, Registry of Motor Vehicles, 1135 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02120-2103 the following documents:

- ✓ your present certificate of title
- ✓ a completed application (RMV-1)
- ✓ a check or money order made payable to the "Registry of Motor Vehicles" in the amount of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for the application fee.

### **Important Note:**

**At this point your vehicle is no longer registered and it can not be driven!**

### **Issuance of Title**

Within thirty (30) days, the Registry will complete a review of your application and mail to you your new Salvage Title - Repairable.

## Inspection

Once you have repaired your vehicle, you should arrange to have your vehicle inspected by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The Registry of Motor Vehicles has several inspection sites throughout the Commonwealth. Inspections are conducted on a walk-in basis. Contact your local Registry office for the addresses and hours of operation for walk-in inspection sites.

You should bring with you to the inspection the following documents:

- ✓ an application for inspection of a salvaged motor vehicle and affidavit (RMV Form 20540/20541);
- ✓ your newly issued salvage title
- ✓ an appraisal report from your insurance company
- ✓ receipts evidencing acquisition of all major component parts used to restore the vehicle, and, in the case of used parts, the vehicle identification number of the vehicle from which the parts were taken
- ✓ a check or money order made payable to the "Registry of Motor Vehicles" in the amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for the inspection fee.

## **Application For Reconstructed Salvage Title**

You must bring to your local Registry of Motor Vehicles the following documents:

- ✓ your present certificate of title
- ✓ your current certificate of registration (if available)
- ✓ an approved inspection form (RMV Form 20613) completed by the inspector
- ✓ a check or money order made payable to the "Registry of Motor Vehicles" in the amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for the application fee.

### **Important Note:**

**You must obtain a new registration from the Registry at the time you apply for your reconstructed salvage title! Please do not leave the Registry without your new registration.**

## **Issuance of the Repairable Salvage Title**

The Registry will review the submitted forms and inspection. Upon a determination by the Registrar that the forms are in order, and within thirty (30) days, the Registry will mail to you a new certificate of title with the notation "RECONSTRUCTED" or "RECOVERED THEFT."

That's all there is to it!



### **3. Insurance Company Procedures**

**It is the responsibility of the insurer to declare a vehicle a total loss!**

Within ten (10) days of the declaration of a vehicle as a "total loss," the insurer must mail or bring to the Title Division, Registry of Motor Vehicles, 1135 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02120-2103 the following documents:

- ✓ an RMV-1 Form clearly marked either "salvage repairable" or "parts only"
- ✓ a certificate of title properly assigned to the insurance company
- ✓ a check or money order made payable to the "Registry of Motor Vehicles" in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the application fee.

## **Issuance of the Title**

Within thirty (30) days, the Registry will complete a review of your application and mail to the insurer a new Salvage Title.

## **4. Title Types and Brands**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts issues the following six title types:

**Clear Title**—A clear title is issued to a vehicle that has had no previous salvage notations.

**Salvage-Repairable Title**—A salvage-repairable title is issued to a vehicle that has been declared by the insurance company to be a total loss resulting from fire, vandalism, collision, theft, flood or other occurrence and which the owner has chosen to repair. A vehicle the owner has chosen to repair does not maintain an active registration and cannot be legally driven until it has been inspected and issued a Reconstructed or Recovered Theft Title and a new registration.

**Owner Retained Total Loss Title**—An owner retained title is issued to a vehicle that has been declared by the insurance company to be a total loss resulting from fire, vandalism, collision, flood or other occurrence. The vehicle is still driveable and the owner has chosen not to make any repairs to the vehicle. A total loss vehicle maintains an active registration and can be legally driven.

**Reconstructed Title**—A reconstructed title is issued to a vehicle which was previously titled as Salvage-Repairable and has been repaired, inspected and retitled as Reconstructed. The vehicle may be legally driven upon the issuance of a new registration.

**Recovered Theft Title**—A recovered theft title is issued to a vehicle which was previously titled as Salvage-Repairable with damage sustained from a theft and has been repaired, inspected and retitled as Recovered Theft. The vehicle may be legally driven upon the issuance of a new registration.

**Salvage-Parts Only Title**—A salvage title is issued to a vehicle that has been declared by the insurance company to be a total loss resulting from fire, vandalism, collision, theft, flood or other occurrence and which has also been declared by the insurance company to be “parts only.” This vehicle can never be rebuilt or registered in the Commonwealth. This vehicle may never be legally driven.

## ***Brands***

Each salvage title issued requires a brand. A brand simply describes what type of damage caused the vehicle to be declared a total loss. The purpose of the brand is to alert the consumer that they are purchasing a salvage vehicle and to inform the consumer of the specific reason the vehicle is a salvage title vehicle.

A brand is required with any vehicle titled as a salvage vehicle. The brands are separated into two categories

- ♦ Primary Salvage Title Brands
- ♦ Secondary Salvage Title Brands

### ***Primary Salvage Title Brands***

Primary Salvage Title Brands indicate usage of the vehicle.

**Repairable**—The repairable brand (REPR) means that this vehicle is allowed to be repaired and brought back to its operating condition.

**Parts only**—The parts only brand (PART) means that the vehicle may only be used for parts. It can never be registered in the Commonwealth. The insurance company which declared the vehicle a total loss makes this determination.

### ***Secondary Salvage Title Brands***

There are six different Secondary Salvage Title Brands. These brands indicate the occurrence which caused the insurance company to declare the vehicle a total loss.

**Collision**—represented by the brand COLL

**Fire Damage**—represented by the brand FIRE

**Flood Damage**—represented by the brand FLOO

**Flood/Salt Damage**—represented by the brand SALT

**Theft Damage**—represented by the brand THEF

**Vandalism**—represented by the brand VAND



# Questions & Answers

## **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**



***What happens if I get stopped while driving my salvage title vehicle before I get my "RECONSTRUCTED" Title?***



Anyone who is stopped for a violation with a salvage vehicle is subject to being towed and impounded. In addition, the operator may be cited for operating an unregistered vehicle (Mass. Gen. L. c. 90, §9) which carries a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for the first offense.



***If my vehicle is totalled and over ten (10) years old do I need to get a salvage or owner-retained title?***



Cars over ten (10) years old need not obtain a salvage title. However, this exception does not extend to trucks or cargo vans.



***What if I've started the salvage process and my vehicle becomes ten (10) years old in the process?***



Once you have started the salvage title process you must complete it. The date of the declaration of total loss by the insurance company determines the age of the vehicle.



***I bought a salvage vehicle in New York, what do I have to do before I can register it in Massachusetts?***



Your vehicle must proceed through the salvage title process outlined on *page 8* of this guide.



***If I have a New York salvage certificate form 907A, can this be used as an out-of-state title at time of inspection?***



No, the New York certificate must be converted to a Massachusetts salvage title.



***If a salvage vehicle is declared a “Parts-Only” vehicle, can this vehicle be registered?***



No.



***Who declares a vehicle a “Parts-Only” vehicle?***



The insurance company who made the insurance settlement.



***May a vehicle be operated if an owner retained or reconstructed salvage title has been issued?***



Yes, if the vehicle is registered and insured.



***Is there a provision if an insurance appraisal report is not available?***



Please call (617) 351-9000 and ask for the Auto Theft and Salvage Division for further information regarding the unavailability of an insurance appraisal report.



***If I have a salvage title, may I convert this title to an "Owner Retained" title?***



No.



***Once a vehicle is labeled a salvage can it ever be fully insured?***



You should check with your insurance company regarding questions of insurance coverage.



***If an individual intends to sell his vehicle that was declared a total loss to a junkyard, must he or she apply for a salvage title?***



Yes, they will apply for a Salvage Title - "Parts Only."



***If a vehicle is declared a total loss, how long does the owner have to apply for a salvage title?***



The owner has ten (10) days from the date of settlement to apply for a salvage title.





***Once an owner retained title has been issued, can the customer apply for a salvage title and go through the inspection process?***



Yes. The Title Division will process as a Salvage Title (See Chapter Two of this guide).



***Does an out-of-state salvaged vehicle need a Massachusetts inspection form?***



Yes, in order to register any salvaged vehicle in Massachusetts, they must be inspected by our Salvage Title Unit. The completed inspection form must be submitted to the Registry (2. *Applying For a Repairable Salvage Title*).



***May a repairman buy a total loss salvage motor vehicle and then, several weeks after purchase, drive it with a repair plate to an inspection station?***



Yes. Registry regulations (540 CMR 18.04 (3)(b)(4)) allow the holder of a repair plate to drive the vehicle to an inspection station with the repair plate attached to the vehicle. The operator must carry the bill of sale or the salvage title while operating the vehicle. The ten (10) day period referred to in 540 CMR 18.04 (3)(b)(5) reflects the time period between the purchase of the total loss salvage vehicle and the application for a salvage title. It does not restrict the use of the repair plate after the ten (10) day period has passed and after application for salvage title has been filed.



# Appendix

## **Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90D, Sections 20 Through 20F**

### **§20 Cancellation of Registration of Scrapped or Dismantled Vehicles.**

(a) Whenever an insurer acquires ownership of a motor vehicle which it has determined to be a total loss salvage motor vehicle, it shall, within ten days from the date of acquisition, surrender the certificate of title to the registrar and shall apply for a salvage title.

(b) Whenever an insurer makes a total loss settlement on a vehicle which it has determined to be a total loss salvage motor vehicle and the insured owner or claimant retains possession and ownership of the vehicle, the insurer shall notify the registrar of such retention on a form prescribed by the registrar and the owner shall, within ten days of such settlement, surrender the certificate of title to the registrar and shall apply for a salvage title. The insurer shall notify the insured owner or claimant of said owner's or claimant's responsibility to comply with the provisions of this section.

(c) Whenever a motor vehicle which is not the subject of an insurance settlement is damaged to such an extent that the owner determines said vehicle to be a total loss salvage motor vehicle, the owner shall surrender the certificate of title to the registrar and shall promptly apply for a salvage title.

(d) A total loss salvage motor vehicle shall not be titled under this chapter or registered for operation under chapter ninety unless the owner complies with the provisions of section twenty D. The owner of a total loss

salvage motor vehicle shall not transfer such vehicle except in accordance with section twenty C. (*chgd. by L.1988, chap. 273(29), eff. 1/1//89*)

**§20A. Application for Salvage Title.**

(a) The application for the salvage title shall be made by the owner to the registrar on such form or forms as the registrar shall prescribe and be accompanied by: (1) a properly assigned certificate of title; (2) any other information and documents the registrar may reasonably require to establish ownership of the vehicle and the existence or nonexistence of a lien; and (3) the required fee.

(b) The registrar shall file each application for salvage title received and maintain adequate record thereof and, when satisfied as to its genuineness and regularity, shall issue a salvage title. The salvage title shall serve as proof of ownership and shall contain the name and address of the owner, a description of the vehicle, a salvage certificate serial number and any other data the registrar prescribes. (*Chgd. by L.1990, chap. 150(281) eff. 7/1/90.*) (*Added by L.1988, chap. 273(29), eff. 1/1/89.*)

**§20B. Exceptions for Salvage Title.**

No salvage title need be obtained for: (1) a vehicle owned by the United States unless it is registered in accordance with the provisions of chapter ninety; (2) a vehicle moved solely by animal power; (3) an implement of husbandry; (4) special mobile equipment; (5) trailers; (6) passenger vehicles ten or more years old; or (7) (mobile) *manufactured* homes as defined in section thirty-two Q of chapter one hundred and forty. (*Added by L. 1988, chap.273(29); chgd by L.1989, chap. 341(62);*

*L. 1991, chap. 481(11), eff. 3/30/92. Matter in italics eff. 3/30/92.)*

**§20C. Transfer of Interest In Salvage Title.**

(a) If an owner of a vehicle for which a salvage title has been issued under this chapter transfers his interest therein, he shall execute the assignment to the transferee on the space provided therefor on the salvage title or on such other form as the registrar shall prescribe and cause the title and assignment to be delivered to the transferee at the time of delivery of the vehicle.

(b) Except for dealers licensed under the provisions of section fifty-nine of chapter one hundred and forty, the transferee of a vehicle for which a salvage title has been issued under this chapter or under the laws, of another state shall, within ten days after receiving delivery of the total loss salvage vehicle apply for a new salvage title on the form prescribed by the registrar. The application shall be accompanied by the properly executed salvage title, required fee and any other information and documents the registrar may reasonably require to establish ownership of the vehicle.

(c) If a dealer licensed under the provision of section fifty-nine of chapter one hundred and forty, is a transferee of a vehicle for which a salvage title has been issued, he need not apply for a new salvage title but, upon transferring the vehicle, shall execute the assignment to the transferee in the space provided for such dealer assignments on the title on such forms as the registrar prescribes and cause the title and assignment to be delivered to the transferee.

(d) Any transferor of a vehicle for which a salvage title has been issued under this chapter shall fully and fairly



disclose that fact to any transferee for value. The secretary of consumer affairs and business regulation may by regulation provide for the timing, form and content of such disclosure.

(e) The registrar may issue a salvage title for any motor vehicle which is transferred into the commonwealth and which was previously covered by a similar title from any other state.

(f) The owner of any vehicle which would qualify as a "total loss salvage vehicle" under section one of chapter ninety D which is transferred in the commonwealth but was not covered by a similar title from another state shall apply for a salvage title from the registrar. (*Added by L.1988, chap. 273(29) eff. 1/1/89.*)

#### **§20D. Restoration of Salvage Motor Vehicle.**

(a) Any owner who reconstructs or restores a total loss salvage motor vehicle to its operating condition which existed prior to the event which caused a salvage title to issue under this chapter of the laws of another state, or who recovers a total loss salvage motor vehicle if stolen, shall make application to the registrar for a certificate of title and an inspection of the vehicle prior to registration or sale of said vehicle. Each application for title and inspection shall be accompanied by the following:

(1) the outstanding salvage title previously issued for the salvage vehicle;

(2) bills of sale evidencing acquisition of all major component parts used to restore the vehicle, listing the manufacturer's vehicle identification number of the vehicle from which the parts were removed, if such parts contained or should contain the manufacturer's vehicle identification number;



(3) the owner shall also provide a sworn affidavit in the form prescribed by the registrar which states that: (i) the identification number of the restored vehicle and its parts have not been removed, destroyed, falsified, altered or defaced; (ii) the salvage title document attached to the application has not been forged, falsified, altered or counterfeited; (iii) all information contained on the application and its attachments is true and correct to the knowledge of the owner; and

(4) the required inspection fee.

The inspection shall include an examination of the vehicle and its major components parts to determine that the vehicle's identification number or its parts have not been removed, falsified, altered, defaced, destroyed or tampered with, that the vehicle information contained in the application and supporting documents is true and correct, and there is no indication that the vehicle or any parts are stolen. Said inspection shall be conducted by a person designated by the registrar. Such inspection is not for the purpose of checking road-worthiness or the safety condition of the vehicle. No liability shall be imposed upon the registrar of motor vehicles or upon the commonwealth or its agents or employees which may result from, or be connected with, any act or omission related to said inspection (*Chgd. by L.1990, chap. 150(228), eff. 7/1/90.*)

(b) Upon satisfactory inspection results, and receipt of all required documents and fees, the registrar shall issue a new certificate of title in the name of the owner which shall contain the notation "reconstructed", or if the vehicle was a stolen vehicle which was subsequently recovered in an undamaged condition, said certificate shall contain the notation "recovered theft vehicle". (*Added by L.1988, chap. 273(29), eff. 1/1/89.*)

**§20E. Scrapping Salvage Motor Vehicle.**

(a) Any person who takes possession of a motor vehicle for purpose of junking or scrapping shall with ten days after receipt of delivery, cause the certificate of title, salvage title or any other document required by the registrar as proof of ownership, to be surrendered to the registrar for cancellation. Said person shall maintain an adequate record of said cancellation which shall contain the name and address of the owner, a complete description of the vehicle including the vehicle identification number.

(b) The registrar shall maintain an adequate record of said cancellation, which shall contain the name and address of the owner, a complete description of the vehicle including the vehicle identification number. The vehicle identification number shall remain attached to said vehicle upon destruction.

(c) A motor vehicle for which the certificate of title, salvage title or any other document required by the registrar as proof of ownership, which has been surrendered for cancellation under this section shall not be titled under this chapter or registered to operate under chapter ninety. (*Added by L.1988, chap. 273(29), eff. 1/1/89.*)

**§20F. Titling and Inspection of Reconstructed Motor Vehicle.**

(a) Any person, including a person licensed under section fifty-nine of chapter one hundred and forty, who reassembles a motor vehicle by means of welding together or connecting the frames or unit bodies of two or more motor vehicles, which are not total loss salvage vehicles,

shall make application to the registrar for a certificate of title and an inspection of the motor vehicle prior to registration or sale of said vehicle. Each application for title and inspection shall be accompanied by the following:

- (1) the outstanding certificate of title;
- (2) an affidavit signed by the owner in the form prescribed by the registrar which includes the following information;
  - (i) the identification numbers of each motor vehicle used to reassemble or connect the motor vehicle;
  - (ii) bills of sale evidencing acquisition of all major component parts used to rebuild the vehicle with the corresponding identification numbers of the vehicles from which parts were removed if such a part contains or should contain the manufacturer's vehicle identification number;
  - (iii) a description of the location of the point of connection or weld joint of the two or more vehicle frames; and
- (3) the required inspection fee.

The inspection shall include an examination of the vehicle and its major component parts to determine that the vehicle information contained in the application and supporting documents is true and correct, and that there is no indication that the vehicle or any of its parts are stolen. Said inspection shall be conducted by a person appointed under the provisions of section twenty-nine of chapter ninety. Such inspection shall not be for the purpose of checking road worthiness or the safety condition of the vehicle. No liability shall be imposed upon the registrar of motor vehicles or upon the commonwealth or its agents or employees which may result from, or be connected with, any act or omission relative to said inspection.

(b) Upon satisfactory inspection results and receipt of all required documents and fees, the registrar shall issue a new certificate of title which shall contain the notation "reconstructed". (*Added by L. 1990, chap. 182, eff. 11/5/90.*)



## **A PLAIN ENGLISH SUMMARY OF THE LAW**

### **Overview**

The salvage title laws are divided into seven sections. The first section (M.G.L. c.90, §20) explains the procedures required for surrender of the certificate of title when a motor vehicle has been declared a total loss salvage motor vehicle. The second section (M.G.L. c.90, §20A) sets forth the salvage title application procedures. The third section (M.G.L. c.90, §20B) lists the exceptions to the requirements of registration of total loss salvage motor vehicles. The fourth section (M.G.L. c.90, §20C) explains the procedures for transfer of a total loss salvage motor vehicle. The fifth section (M.G.L. c.90, §20D) sets forth the procedures to follow when the owner of a total loss salvage motor vehicle reconstructs or restores the vehicle to operating condition. The sixth section (M.G.L. c.90, §20E) explains the procedures for cancellation of title when a vehicle is scrapped or junked. Finally, the seventh section (M.G.L. c.90, §20F) explains the procedure when an individual reassembles a motor vehicle from parts of two or more other vehicles which are not total loss salvage motor vehicles.

### **I. Surrender of Title**

Section one (M.G.L. c.90, §20) is self-explanatory and defines the three possible forms of ownership of a Total Loss Salvage Motor Vehicle ("TLSMV") and how and when the owner must register the TLSMV. After declaration that a vehicle is a TLSMV, the owner (which



could be the insurer, the insured owner, or an uninsured owner) must surrender the title to the registrar within ten (10) days and apply for a salvage title.

This section places certain additional procedures upon the insurer when the insured owner retains possession after declaration of the vehicle as a TLSMV. In that instance, the insurer must notify the registrar of the settlement and the insurer must also notify the insured owner of his responsibilities to surrender title and apply for salvage title.

### **II. Application for Salvage**

After a person determines that they must obtain a salvage title, the second section (M.G.L. c.90, §20A) explains the simple procedures required to apply for the salvage title.

Each person is required to bring three (3) things with them to the Registry:

- (1) a properly assigned certificate of title;
- (2) evidence of ownership or evidence of existing liens;
- (3) the required fee.

The registrar will then issue the salvage title upon satisfaction that the papers are in order and that the individual is the rightful owner.

### **III. Exceptions**

The third section (M.G.L. c.90, §20B) enumerates the exceptions to the general rule requiring registration of all TLSMV. No salvage title need be obtained for:

- ♦ a vehicle owned by the U.S. (unless registered under M.G.L. c.90);
- ♦ a vehicle moved solely by animal power;
- ♦ an implement of husbandry;
- ♦ special mobile equipment;
- ♦ trailers;
- ♦ passenger vehicles ten or more years old; or
- ♦ manufactured homes (See M.G.L. c.140, §32Q).

### **IV. Sale or Transfer of a TLSMV**

The fourth section (M.G.L. c.90, §20C) addresses the sale or transfer of a TLSMV. Quite simply, the owner of a TLSMV for which a salvage title has been issued, need only sign the title over to the new owner on the space provided on the title and deliver the title to the new owner. The new owner, (with the exception of a dealer licensed under M.G.L. c.140, §59), must apply for a new salvage title within ten (10) days of the delivery. If the new owner is a dealer licensed under M.G.L. c. 140, § 59, he or she does not need to apply for a new salvage

title. However, when the dealer transfers the title to a new owner, the dealer must properly execute the title as previously described.

The owner of a TLSMV is under an obligation to disclose to the buyer or transferee that the vehicle has a salvage title. The Registrar may issue a salvage title in Massachusetts for a vehicle which has a salvage title from another state. If the vehicle is transferred from another state without a salvage title, the new owner or transferee must apply for a salvage title in the Commonwealth.

### **V. Reconstruction or Restoration of TLSMV**

The fifth section (M.G.L. c.90, §20D) sets forth the proper procedures when an individual reconstructs or restores a TLSMV back to its operating condition. No person can sell or register a restored or reconstructed TLSMV until he or she has made application for a new title and has had the vehicle inspected by the registry. **The inspection is not a safety inspection.** The purpose of the inspection is to determine if the vehicle or any of its parts are stolen.

The application for a new title must include the following:

- (1) the outstanding salvage title previously issued for the salvage vehicle;
- (2) the bills of sale for all major component parts including VIN of vehicle from which the part was removed;

- (3) a sworn affidavit; and,
- (4) the inspection fee.

Upon completion of the inspection and receipt of all the required documents, a new certificate of title will issue with the notation "RECONSTRUCTED." However, in the case of a recovered stolen vehicle, the notation will read "RECOVERED THEFT VEHICLE."

#### **VI. Cancellation of Certificate of Title upon Junking or Scrapping of Vehicle**

The sixth section (M.G.L. c.90, §20E) addresses the issue of what to do with the title of a vehicle which is slated to be junked or scrapped. The law requires that within ten (10) days of coming into possession of a vehicle which is to be junked or scrapped, the person in possession of the vehicle must surrender the title, salvage title, or other document indicating ownership to the Registrar for cancellation.

The VIN must remain attached to any vehicle upon its destruction. Any vehicle which title has been surrendered for cancellation, cannot be titled under this chapter nor can it be registered to operate under chapter ninety.

**VII. Reassembly of Vehicles from other Vehicles**  
**Application for Title and Inspection**

The seventh section (M.G.L. c.90, §20F) sets forth the title and inspection procedures for motor vehicles reassembled from two or more vehicles. No person can sell or register an assembled vehicle until he or she has made application for a new title and has the vehicle inspected by the Registry. **The inspection is not a safety inspection.** The purpose of the inspection is to determine if the vehicle or any of its parts are stolen.







**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
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